

WANDERERS' CUP DREAMS SHATTERED

BY PATRICK VERCOE

St. Albans City 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' F.A. CUP aspirations were tragically cut short at St. Albans when the home side scored just four minutes from the end of this one-sided replay.

For Wycombe to lose this first qualifying tie was a travesty of justice. They completely dominated the game with some delightful mid-field football but once inside the St. Albans 18-yard area they found the well-drilled home defence impossible to penetrate.

The main problem was the lack of forwards in the box. With Worley sending over a continual stream of crosses only Samuels and Horseman were left to try and find a route through the packed City defence.

So confidently were Wanderers in command that St. Albans could only mount one really dangerous shot on Maskell's goal in the first 45 minutes.

Flowing

However, despite Wycombe's flowing approach work it is goals which win matches. The Wanderers players continually fell into the trap of pumping the high cross into the St. Albans defence where Burgess and Wood thrived on heading out.

At the slightest sign of danger St. Albans pulled their men back to cover Whiteaker and if the defence did weaken Whiteaker was always around to mop up.

Stuart Thompson worked extremely hard in mid-field to keep Wanderers' build-up moving and linked well with Barry Baker. Fielding the team which drew at Loakes Park, Wycombe slightly altered their formation with Lailey reverting to his

abandon the game after an incident behind Maskell's goal.

The deciding goal came in the 86th minute — four minutes from extra-time. Thomas was caught in possession inside his own area and was robbed by Butterfield.

His low cross was superbly



IAN RUNDLE . . .
had shot kicked off line

hooked past Maskell by Broomfield, standing with his back to the goal. The ball sailed into the top left hand corner to end Wycombe's Cup dreams.

MATCH DETAILS

St. Albans City: A. Whiteaker; D. Lawrence, P. Wood, L. Burgess, D. Gibbs, D. Neville, M. Harman, W. Ratty, J. Butterfield, R. Childs, W. Broomfield.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; J. Lailey, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, S. Thompson.

Corners — Wanderers 5, St. Albans 3.

Free-kicks (conceded) Wycombe 7, St. Albans 10.

Referee: Mr. W. South (Uxbridge).

